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PRC: REACTION TO F-16 DECISION

Foreign Ministry officials lodged a "strongest protest" of the US decision to sell F-16 fighters to Taiwan, according to *Xinhua*. Vice Foreign Minister Liu Huaqiu said China would "find it difficult to attend five-power" arms-control talks pending a reversal of the decision, and left open the option of further "strong reaction." Though Liu said the government "attached importance to Sino-US relations," he cited the F-16 decision and continuing US sanctions as behavior that would "lead to a major retrogression" in bilateral relations and international cooperation with the United States.

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